

Before the Appellate Board National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA)

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

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No. NEPRA/Appeal/023/2025/ 405

May 08, 2025

- Muhammad Asif, S/o. Ghulam Rasool, R/o. M/s. Asif Re-Rolling Mills, Sialkot Road, Gujranwala Cell No. 0300-8644310
- 3. Rai Shahid Abbas, Advocate High Court, Jalal Law Associates, Office No. 8, Ground Floor, CM Centre, Fareed Kot Road, Lahore Cell No. 0322-4852225
- Sub Divisional Officer (Operation), GEPCO Ltd, Aroop Sub Division, Gujranwala Cell No. 0318-3992214

- 2. Chief Executive Officer, GEPCO Ltd, 565-A, Model Town, G. T. Road, Gujranwala
- 4. Abdul Haque Khokhar, Advocate High Court, 10-Fatima Jinnah Chambers, Session Courts, Gujranwala Cell No. 0301-6603582
- POI/Electric Inspector, Gujranwala Region, Energy Department, Govt. of Punjab, 272/29-A, Model Town, Gujranwala Phone No. 055-9330515

Subject:

Appeal No.023/2025 (GEPCO Vs. Muhammad Asif) Against the Interim Orders Dated 18.09.2024 and 10.12.2024 of the Provincial Office of Inspection to Government of the Punjab Gujranwala Region, Gujranwala

Please find enclosed herewith the decision of the Appellate Board dated 08.05.2025 (03 pages), regarding the subject matter, for information and necessary action, accordingly.

Encl: As Above

(Ikram Shakeel) Deputy Director Appellate Board

Forwarded for information please.

1. Director (IT) –for uploading the decision of the Appellate Board on the NEPRA website



National Electric Power Regulatory Authority

Before The Appellate Board

In the matter of Appeal No.023/POI-2025

Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited

......Appellant

Versus

Muhammad Asif S/o. Ghulam Rasool, R/o. M/.s Asif Re-Rolling Mills, Sialkot Road, Gujranwala

.....Respondent

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 38(3) OF THE REGULATION OF GENERATION, TRANSMISSION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRIC POWER ACT, 1997

For the Appellant: Rai Shahid Abbas Advocate Mr. Muazzam Ali Addl. XEN

For the Respondent:

Mr. Abdul Haque Khokhar Advocate

Mr. Muhammad Asif

DECISION

- 1. As per the facts of the case, Muhammad Asif (hereinafter referred to as the "Respondent") is an industrial consumer of Gujranwala Electric Power Company Limited (hereinafter referred to as the "Appellant") bearing Ref No.30-I2212-146740-1-U having a sanctioned load of 4,500 kW, and the applicable tariff category is B-3. The Respondent filed a complaint dated 18.09.2024 before the Provincial Office of Inspection, Gujranwala Region, Gujranwala against the bill total amounting to Rs.42,402,619/- charged by the Appellant in August 2024 containing the adjustment bill of Rs.6,444,216/- and the detection bill of Rs.11,986,134/- charged on account of 33% slowness of the meter. The POI vide interim order dated 18.09.2024 deferred the recovery of the bill, total amounting to Rs.18,430,680/- (the adjustment bill of Rs.6,444,216/- and the detection bill of Rs.11,986,134/-) till the final disposal of the case and directed the Appellant to issue the revised bill of Rs.23,972,269/-for August 2024 for payment within five (5) days. The POI further restrained the Appellant from disconnection of electricity of the premises till further orders.
- Subsequently, the Respondent filed another complaint before the POI on 10.12.2024, wherein
 he prayed to restrain the Appellant from recovery of the bill of Rs. 83,675,053/- charged in
 November 2024 till the final disposal of the case. The POI vide interim order dated 10.12.2024

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directed the Appellant to issue the revised bill of Rs. 35,000,000/- against the bill of Rs.83,675,053/- for November 2024. The POI vide the above-mentioned interim order further directed the Appellant to restore the electricity of the premises subject to the payment of the bill of Rs.35,000,000/- and to maintain the status of the connection as restored till the next date of hearing.

- 3. Being dissatisfied, the Appellant has filed the instant appeal before NEPRA and impugned the interim orders dated 18.09.2024 and 10.12.2024 of the POI. In this regard, a hearing was held at NEPRA Regional Office Lahore on 26.04.2025, which was attended by both parties. Learned counsel for the Respondent raised the preliminary objection regarding the maintainability of the appeal against interim orders and prayed for dismissal of the appeal on this sole ground. In response, learned counsel for the Appellant argued that any party aggrieved with the decision of the POI may prefer an appeal before the NEPRA u/s 38(3) of the NEPRA Act. He prayed that the matter be decided on merits instead of technical grounds. On merits, learned counsel for the Appellant submitted that an amount of Rs. 83,675,083/- is recoverable from the Respondent till November 2024, due to which electricity of the premises was disconnected by the Appellant. Learned counsel for the Appellant averred that the POI vide the interim order dated 10.12.2024 directed the Appellant to issue the revised bill of Rs.35,000,000/- against the bill of Rs.83,675,053/- and for the restoration of electricity of the premises. As per learned counsel for the Appellant, the POI, without consideration of facts, passed the interim orders, which are liable to be set aside at the appellate stage. On the other hand, learned counsel for the Respondent contended that electricity of the premises was disconnected by the Appellant due to non-payment of impugned arrears, which were deferred by the lower forum vide interim orders dated 18.09.2024 and 10.12.2024. The Respondent finally agreed to pay the bill of Rs. 35,000,000/- as directed by the POI vide interim order dated 10.12.2024 and prayed for the restoration of electricity of the premises.
- 4. Having heard the arguments and perused the record. Following are our observations:
- 4.1 While addressing the preliminary objection raised by the Respondent regarding maintainability of the appeal, it is observed that the Appellant has filed the subject appeal before the NEPRA against the interim orders dated 18.09.2024 and 10.12.2024 of the POI under Section 38(3) of the NEPRA Act and NEPRA (Procedure For Filing Appeals) Regulations 2012.
- 4.2 As per Regulation 3(2) of the NEPRA (Procedure For Filing Appeals) Regulations 2012, no appeal is competent against the order of the POI if rendered with the consent of parties or



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against any interim order, for the sake of convenience, the relevant Regulation is reproduced below:

"No appeal shall be competent against any order or decision given with the consent of the parties or against any interim order."

5. In view of the above, we conclude that the subject appeal filed by the Appellant against interim orders dated 18.09.2024 and 10.12.2024 of the POI is incompetent as per Regulation 3(2) of the NEPRA (Procedure for filing Appeals) Regulations, 2012, and the same is dismissed. However, the Appellant may prefer an appeal before NEPRA against the final decision of POI under section 38(3) of the NEPRA Act.

Abid Hussain
Member/Advisor (CAD)

Muhammad Irfan-ul-Haq Member/ALA (Lic.)

Naweed Hahi Sheikh Convener/DG (CAD)

Dated: <u>08-05-2</u>025